

## **CODE ENFORCEMENT POLICY #7-4**

July 28, 1994

**TO:** All Inspection Personnel

**FROM:** Fire Marshal Steven Zaccard

**SUBJECT:** **Storage of Recyclable Paper in Buildings**

**CODE REFERENCE:** MUFC 11.303

"THIS POLICY IS TO SERVE AS A GUIDE FOR YOUR ENFORCEMENT. EXCEPTIONS TO THIS POLICY SHALL BE APPROVED BY YOUR SUPERVISOR"

For existing buildings, neither the fire code nor the Life Safety Code specifically addresses the storage of recyclable paper within buildings. Therefore, the storage of recycled paper in buildings is to be considered as other combustible materials, but not *waste*. It is nowadays a product or material not "waste" or "rubbish". Waste material can contain a number of contaminants that could cause a fire, most notably unextinguished smoking materials. Recyclable paper, on the other hand, is cleaner and generally pure of such contaminants and presents lower fire hazard.

**Therefore, the storage of recyclable paper shall be in a manner prescribed by the Uniform Fire Code in Section 11.303 entitled "Storage, Use and Handling of Miscellaneous Combustible Materials", and not Section 11.302 entitled "Storage and Accumulation of Rubbish and Vegetation".**

The containers in which recyclable papers can be stored are not regulated either the Uniform Fire Code or the Life Safety Code. However, you should recommend that the containers be non-combustible so they do not contribute to the spread of fire.

cc: Jan Gasterland  
Gary Trudeau  
Bill Cook  
Terry Iverson  
Peter Warner

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